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FROM: Kika de la Garza

25 September 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D C --- Rep Kika de la Garza said today that U S Treasury officials have explained the plan for furnishing export data to Mexican Customs officials.

Because of concern evidenced by border Customs brokers over the understanding that the Mexican government would be supplied with export data, Rep de la Garza asked Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Eugene T Rossides to explain to him exactly how the dissemination of information would be handled. The South Texan said for some years the Mexican government has required its importers to furnish a "Vendors Declaration (Exporter)" containing substantially the same information the U S requires on its Export Declaration. Since it is estimated that compliance with the requirement costs our exporters several million dollars annually in increased handling costs, the U S Department of Commerce has been trying to persuade Mexico to eliminate its requirement for this document.

In connection with this, Secretary of the Treasury Rossides told Rep de la Garza "As to the usefulness of eliminating the 'Vendors Declaration (Exporter)' I can only point out that the savings to U S exporters estimate was made by officials of the U S Department of Commerce, who believed that the requirement was not only unnecessarily costly, but placed U S exporters in a disadvantaged position, competitively. This requirement which became effective September 6, 1968, was discontinued on July 27, 1970."

Requested for further details with respect to the data, Assistant Treasury Secretary Rossides continued "As to the usefulness of the computer data being furnished to the Mexican Customs, I can only add that the Mexican Treasury officials with whom I reviewed the matter believed this information would be very valuable in identifying shipments which legally left the United States but were illegally imported into Mexico. I am also under the impression that the Mexican Government has no interest in making inquiries of importers who legally enter their merchandise but will, instead, focus its attention on those who violate, or conspire to violate, its import laws. I also understand that the results of any investigation initiated on the basis of this computer data will be evaluated in Mexico City at senior levels for the specific purpose of insuring that appropriate action is taken against those who violate Mexican revenue laws."

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